

Dear Sir/Madam,

It has come to my attention that as part of the proposed budget cuts, the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) is facing nearly \$800,000 in cuts. While I appreciate the need for fiscal cuts, the CAES is one organization which should be left intact. The staff and work done by the CAES is unique and sets our state above many others. Their research supports all facets of agriculture in Connecticut. Where cutting another program might cause hardships for an organization, the cuts at the CAES would be felt by every farmer and person involved in agriculture. Their work helps to identify threats to our agriculture state wide and deal with them as they manifest.

My organization, the Connecticut Beekeepers Association, benefits directly from the operations of the CAES. We benefit through research into toxins in pollens which affect bees. We benefit through the State apiary inspector being able to quickly respond to threats to bee colonies in Connecticut. This support reduces the threats that are affecting honey bees nationally. Loss of the Bee Inspector could potentially cost millions to the state in lost agriculture.

The support that the CAES gives to beekeepers is a small example of the state-wide impact of this agency. Their research and agricultural services support many more programs with greater impact. I strongly urge you to rescind the proposed cuts to the CAES budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen Dinsmore  
President,  
Connecticut Beekeepers Association